

## **GSP Application Tips & Reminders from Ms. FitzGerald**

### **Academic Achievement Section**

- I will complete the academic page. Please leave that blank.
- I will include your transcript.

### **Focus Area**

- This does not have to be what you plan to major in during college. Vary choices among disciplines, GSP will endeavor to spread LHS students among areas, so it is unlikely that you will be in the same class with another General.
- You will find out your focus area after you accept a spot at GSP.

### **Student Profile Section**

- Make the title of each section bold, create a solid paragraph for each section.
- Make sure you include everything from the directions in your descriptions.
- Grades 9-11 only, you may include activities/recognitions/service from the summer before 9th grade.
- Per district request, avoid using “Lafayette High School”, “SCAPA”, or “Pre-Engineering” – use “my high school,” “the fine arts program,” “the gifted math/science program,” etc.
- Type in Word to utilize spell check, then copy/paste into application.
- Some entries will fit in multiple sections. Duplicate this information when possible. Each section is reviewed separately by different scorers.
- Watch the VLOGS on the GSP website for other helpful tips.

### **Extracurricular Section**

- Include EVERYTHING you have done outside of the classroom whether or not it is related to school.
- Describe responsibilities you held, importance of your role, how much time, how often, etc.
- No points are removed if an entry does not apply.
- Show versatility, leadership, initiative. Frequency and depth of activities matter. Commitment to one activity over time is more important than a variety of short term activities especially if role/responsibility has increased.

### **Community Service (Paid/Voluntary)**

- Anything nice, kind, or helpful you’ve done for anyone including yourself (include paid work here). We can pare it back if needed.
- Describe specific responsibilities and the impact they had on your awareness, growth and development.
- If you did multiple service projects with the same group, break them out into individual entries.

### **Honors/Awards**

- Anything you’ve been elected, selected or chosen for. (GPA requirement, audition, voting, etc.)
- Describe the honor and the importance of it. These descriptions will be smaller than other sections.

### **Writing Entry**

- Pick the prompt that best suits you. All equal weight.
- Be as unique, original and creative as possible, but make sure you are telling a story that reflects you.
- Have at least 2 proof readers – one for grammar (English teacher) and another for message/engagement.
- Use Google docs for draft and editing/feedback purposes, Final version should be saved as a .pdf.
- Do NOT include your name. At the top of the page, just put “Prompt #?” and that’s it.
- DOUBLE SPACE.

### **Recommendations**

- Recs must be typed and they must be in the GSP recommendation form.
- It’s helpful to include the sample teacher or community member recommendation so they can see the expectations.

### **Teacher Recommendation**

- Must be a teacher from a core content area (including World Language) who taught you in class.

### **Community Member Recommendation**

- Cannot be a coach or sponsor affiliated with the school system.
- Include the “Helpful Hints for Writing a GSP Community Recommendation” document from the GSP website.